

The Intergroup for Peace Initiatives invites you to a meeting:

European Security Research: Arming Big Brother

Speakers:

Ben Hayes

Statewatch, UK, Author of the recent report: "Arming Big Brother"

Francisco Gaxtelu Mezquiriz

Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Verheugen

**Co – Chairs: Tobias Pflüger, MEP and Caroline Lucas, MEP (Co-Presidents of the
Intergroup for Peace Initiatives)**

Date: Tuesday, 12 September 2006

Room: European Parliament, Paul Henri Spaak Buidling Room 1C51

Time: 13.00 – 15.00

This meeting will give an opportunity to hear about the significant amounts of research funding being made available by the European Commission for research into all aspects of the emerging '**security-industrial complex**': funding which is made available with **little public scrutiny** and which is allocated on the advice of an Advisory Board on which the **defence industry** is heavily represented.

The debate will raise searching questions which will make it possible for Members of the European Parliament to call to account those responsible for this area of expenditure and to bring the underlying issues into the spotlight of parliamentary scrutiny.

"The idea of a 'security-industrial complex' has gained currency for a number of reasons. First, state police and security forces in Europe have been equipped with more and more military equipment, providing arms companies with a growing sideline. More broadly, the traditional barriers between internal and external security, and policing and military operations, have been eroded. Second, arms companies are joined in the emerging 'security-industrial complex' by the burgeoning IT sector and its large multinationals, the IT revolution having thrown up novel possibilities for the surveillance of public and private places, of communications, and of groups and individuals. Third, security-centric government responses to terrorism and the 'war on terrorism' have accelerated all these trends"
Ben Hayes, Statewatch, From 'Arming Big Brother', p 4